

CENTER SCENE



The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter

August 1991

MANAGERS MOVE ON

Two members of the Management Team will soon be leaving the Service Center to report to their new positions in the Bureau.

Kemp Conn has accepted a reassignment to the Washington Office as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Director for Lands and Renewable Resources. Kemp came to the SC as Interim Service Center Director in January 1990, and has stayed on to ease the transition for present Service Center Director Marv LeNoue.



Before coming to the SC, Kemp had been the Associate State Director in Utah since 1985. He is a career BLMer, and has also held such positions as District Manager in Las Vegas; Assistant Chief of the Division of Wilderness & Environmental Areas in Washington; Budget Analyst in the Branch of Program Development in Washington; and Assistant District Manager in Riverside, California.

Kemp says of his time at the SC, "It's been one of the neatest experiences I've had—probably because of the diversity of programs the Service Center is involved with. Certainly automation is on the cutting edge of a new BLM—it's been really great to be involved in that." Kemp continues, "I don't think I've ever been in an office with people having so many diverse skills. It's presented a challenge in that it's hard to keep up a work environment where you meet everybody's expectations. I've learned an awful lot from Marv—he's made it even more challenging to work here."

In addition, Kemp says, "I've probably not worked harder anywhere else, or been supported by as many people. People were nice about keeping me involved and being patient. I've come to appreciate and

respect the people here, not only as fellow workers, but as friends. I would like to challenge those who don't know what the Service Center has to offer to become familiar with the opportunities it provides and take advantage of them. I look forward to going to Washington and taking advantage of what I've experienced at the Service Center."

Mary Gaylord, Chief of the Technology Transfer Staff, has accepted the District Manager position at Shoshone, Idaho. She has worked at the Service Center twice during her career, for a total of about 12 years.

Mary started her 26-year Government career with Forest Service. She came to the SC in 1975 as part of the Recreation Staff of the Standards and Technology group. In 1978, she left BLM and went to work for Fish and Wildlife Service, and then Bonneville Power Administration, before returning to the SC as Chief of the Technology Transfer Staff in 1982. Mary's other notable accomplishments include serving as Mayor of Morrison, Colorado for 6 years, and being appointed by the Governor of Colorado to the Board of Directors of the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District.

Mary reports to Idaho on August 25, 1991. She says of the Service Center, "I think that it is amazing to learn of the diversity of skills and innovations needed to support the stewardship mission of the Bureau." She adds, "When we at the Service Center work well, we are invisible; when we err, we are an easy target. The Service Center will never be a popular duty station, in part because of that dichotomy. I wish more persons could understand the diversity here."



VENDORS CONFER

A preproposal conference was held on July 2, 1991, for vendors interested in the Request For Proposal (RFP) for the Bureau's ALMRS/Modernization Project. Approximately 150 vendors attended.

A videotaped greeting from Deputy Director Dean Stepanek opened the conference. BLM's contract representatives then presented questions and answers.

An amendment to the RFP was issued on July 3, 1991, addressing questions from the conference. Vendors now have until August 23, 1991, to submit any other questions on the RFP. Proposals are due September 19, 1991.

PERSONNEL NEWS

New Employees

Alicia Boyard, Supply Clerk, SC-657
Manuel Folks, Summer Aid, SC-210
Laura Justice, Proc. Clerk, SC-651
Rebecca La Cota, Data Trans., SC-675
Jody Land, Summer Aid, SC-675
Jonathan Lee, Cartographer, SC-671
Elizabeth McDill, Contr. Spec., SC-652
Denise Pettersen, Clk-Typ., SC-630
Darlene Robitaille, Secretary, SC-630
Larry Stanfel, Ops. Res. Analyst, SC-326
Richard Stark, Jr., Range Con., SC-213
Frank Tisby, Mat. Hand. Frman., SC-657
Nancy Tubbs, Cartographer, SC-671

Separations

Donald Bair, Warehouse Worker Foreman, SC-657
Diane Barbour, Comp. Asst., SC-343
John Cash, Comp. Sys. Analyst, SC-313
Bernice Duke, Prop. Mgmt. Spec., SC-657
Debora Farley, Proc. Clerk, SC-651
Jane Goodin, Clerk-Typist, SC-631
William Griffith, Supv. Mgmt. Analyst, SC-130
Marilyn Hahn, Vchr. Exam., SC-616
Raymond Leroux, Vchr. Exam., SC-616
Teri Peterson, Supply Clerk, SC-657
Elizabeth Popham, Clk-Typ., SC-630
David Walkinshaw, Sys. Acct., SC-613
Robert White, Jr., Supv. Op. Acct., SC-615

CONFRONTING NATURE TO SAVE LIVES

by Kathy Rohling

Part II — Because of the country's changing demographics—the move from a rural to urban setting—the need for new planning strategies and retraining in the search, rescue, and medical areas of emergency rescue is emerging. In addition, there is a new technical dimension to urban rescue operations as the need for information from construction and structural engineering experts on how to search collapsed structures safely has grown.

The search phase of an operation requires locating victims as quickly as possible. One technique is to place sound amplifiers among the ruins to sense vibrations that indicate the possible presence of victims. Another technique is to use search dogs. The main drawback with dogs is the small number that are trained particularly for urban search and rescue. The dogs used in alpine rescues do not normally walk on unsteady, unstable ground—the exact terrain they would have to traverse after an earthquake. A dog's instinct is to jump off of or to avoid unstable areas. In 1985, because of inadequate building codes and the soft subsoils underlying Mexico City, hundreds of buildings collapsed during the earthquake killing and injuring many people. The United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) used 13 urban-trained search dog teams to assist in locating victims.

New rescue techniques involve emergency managers working closely with mine safety experts—people who have had firsthand experience extricating victims buried in confined spaces. The managers also work with personnel knowledgeable in cave rescues, another area with similar parameters. Rescue equipment needs have had to be reevaluated and some equipment has had to be redesigned. Equipment used in normal circumstances—the “jaws of life” for example—is too big and awkward to use in confined spaces.

Providing medical care presents numerous challenges. Doctors need more knowledge about treating victims for inhalation of dust and suffocation. Doctors also need to learn to treat victims of the “crush” syndrome. According to Peter Bakersky, an earthquake planner for the Federal Response Plan, “No one is well-trained in treating this syndrome, mainly because it's a fairly new occurrence that's changed with our demographics.”

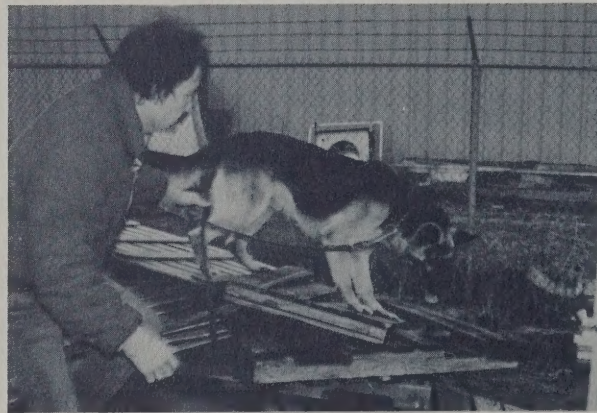
Working in confined, often claustrophobic, spaces as opposed to large, open operating rooms is another challenge experienced by medical personnel. Equipment has to be considered here as well—defibrillator units are too bulky and heavy for small areas. In addition, doctors and rescuers require triage training—how to save the most people in a mass casualty situation with limited resources. In other words, do they stop to give CPR to a person who might not make it when they could possibly save more people with better chances of survival in that same amount of time?

The addition of the technical component to emergency rescue operations is a result of the new focus on urban settings. A successful rescue, in this kind of setting, requires specialized construction knowledge and the ability to move concrete slabs and other heavy building materials. Dion Dishong, a civil engineering technician with the Branch of Engineering Services at BLM's Service Center is a member of the Technical Subcommittee of the Colorado

Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. According to Dion, “You need someone onsite who can tell you if the wall of a building will collapse imminently.”

The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) has analyzed recent manmade and natural disasters and found that there is a critical lack of information on engineering, architectural, and construction firms available to support emergency managers, from the local to the national level, in their recovery efforts. SAME has published an Emergency and Disaster Response Capability Listing, a state-by-state rundown of available private sector firms and their areas of expertise.

According to The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), “There will always be emergencies. Planning for them, responding to them, and recovering from them are responsibilities shared by Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector.” The people charged with this nation's safety in the aftermath of disasters are to be commended for their heroic efforts.



Nike, a German shepherd, trains for urban rescues by walking on a junk pile.

Dogs involved in urban search and rescue efforts require special training. Handlers don't look for a specific breed for such training, but do look for dogs with intelligence, curiosity, and self-confidence.

The dogs must be taught agility and safe negotiation of obstacles. And because their back feet just naturally follow their front feet, the dogs must also be taught to use their back legs. This is done by having them climb ladders, forcing them to use their back legs for stability. They're trained on rubble piles that simulate—yes, piles of rubble! Vol-

unteers simulate buried victims and the dogs have to find them. Dogs locate victims by a process known as air scenting—picking up a victim's scent on the air currents. They are trained to search entire areas thoroughly. When they locate a victim, they are taught to scratch and bark. One of the most important aspects of their training then kicks in. According to the National Geographic video “Those Wonderful Dogs” finding the victim is the dog's primary reward. It is essential that physical contact be made—a hug and a “good boy” let the dog know the job was well done.